

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Exmouth



Homework Policy

Adopted: November 2023

Updated: November 2025

Next review due: November 2026

Our Mission Statement:

‘Walking with Jesus to be the best we can be’

At St Joseph’s we aim to give every child an excellent all-round educational experience with an enthusiasm and zest that will make their school days the best they can possibly be. Our broad and balanced curriculum aims to enrich learning and nurture enquiring minds. We endeavour to foster the spiritual, educational, social and personal development of all our children, encouraging them to become responsible and active members of the community.

Rationale:

We recognise that for a child to reach their true potential, there needs to be a strong partnership between both home and school.

We believe homework should:

Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership to enhance children’s learning.

Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.

Parents/carers can:

- Give help or guidance with their child’s homework when required
- Provide a suitable, quiet area where children can do homework
- Make it clear to their child that they value homework and support the school in explaining how homework can help their learning
- Encourage the children and praise them when they have completed homework

The class teacher is responsible for ensuring that the demands of homework are manageable and for setting regular patterns of homework (in accordance with the DfES guidelines). Homework set is monitored, marked and good work is praised.

Time Allocations:

Homework is a positive opportunity for the children to discuss their learning with their parents. Throughout a pupil’s time at the school the amount and duration of homework will slowly increase. Homework should never be too onerous nor should it create stress within the pupil’s family. If parents have concerns about their child’s homework they should contact the class teacher.

Foundation Stage

Children will be sent home a ‘Reading for pleasure’ book and a phonics book each week. The reading for pleasure book is one for parents to read to their child. The phonics book is one that links to the child’s phonic learning in class and the child should read to the parent.

Children are encouraged to read their book 5 x a week at home.

They may also receive reading activities such as Tricky Words, Rhymes and Phonics activities. They can, on occasions, receive number and letter work to enhance the foundation stage curriculum or activities relating to their current class topic.

Key Stage 1

The major emphasis is on reading. Children will be sent home a 'Reading for pleasure' book and a phonics book each week. This may be an e-book or a paper book. The reading for pleasure book is one for parents to read with their child. The phonics book is one that links to the child's phonic learning in class and the child should read to the parent. When the children have moved on from the phonics learning they will be assigned a 'levelled' book appropriate to their reading level. Some will move onto Accelerated Reader books. Children are encouraged to read their book 5 x a week at home.

Children will also receive spellings and can at times be asked to complete maths activities or activities relating to their class topic.

They may also be directed to ask questions of their parents, friends or family in order to bring information to enrich school sessions.

Key Stage 2

The emphasis is still on reading, with a balance of other pieces of homework set to complement and support the curriculum that is delivered in school.

Children will choose a 'Reading for pleasure' book and book matched to their reading level.

The reading for pleasure book is one for parents to read with their child. The levelled reading book is one that links to the child's Accelerated Reader level and the child should read this to the parent.

Children are encouraged to read their book 5 x a week at home for a minimum of 20 minutes each session.

Children will also be assigned spelling and TTRS homework as well.

Children may also be directed to find information to enrich school sessions and although parental help and encouragement remains essential, independence in researching and learning is an important component of homework at this level.

Extra homework may be set on voluntary basis. If children miss important work for any reason (e.g. Private music lessons) they may, at times, be required to finish class work at home.

Children with Additional Educational Needs:

Where appropriate children's homework will be differentiated or a different activity or task set as required – this is at the discretion of the Class teacher.